



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 28

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Near perfect weather and field conditions allowed several early maturing corn and soybean fields to be harvested during the week, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Many fields of corn and some soybeans were damaged by the strong winds from IKE and farmers are having to make tough decisions whether to harvest these fields early with high moisture levels. Fall tillage, baling of hay and seeding of winter wheat also made good progress last week.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 6.9 **days suitable for field work**. **Corn condition** declined slightly from last week and is rated 52 percent good to excellent compared to 50 percent last year at this time. Fifty-seven percent of the corn acreage is now **mature** compared with 85 percent last year and 76 percent for the 5-year average. Eight percent of the corn acreage has been **harvested** compared with 28 percent last year and 16 percent for the 5-year average. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging about 24 percent.

Soybean condition is rated 48 percent good to excellent compared to 46 percent last year at this time. Eighty percent of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 87 percent last year and 82 percent for the 5-year average. Fifteen percent of the soybean acreage has been **harvested** compared with 22 percent last year and 18 percent for the 5-year average. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging about 13 percent.

Five percent of the 2009 **winter wheat** acreage has been **planted** compared with 10 percent last year and 8 percent for the 5-year average. Seventy-nine percent of the **tobacco** acreage is reported to be **harvested** at this time compared with 77 percent last year and 79 percent for the 5-year average.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated as 3% excellent, 25% good, 35% fair, 25% poor and 12% very poor. Livestock remain in mostly good condition with some producers beginning to feed hay due to deteriorating pastures.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn in Dent	94	89	100	99
Corn Mature	57	40	85	76
Corn Harvested	8	3	28	16
Soybeans Shedding Lvs	80	60	87	82
Soybeans Harvested	15	2	22	18
Tobacco Harvested	79	58	77	79
Winter Wheat Planted	5	1	10	8

CROP CONDITION TABLE

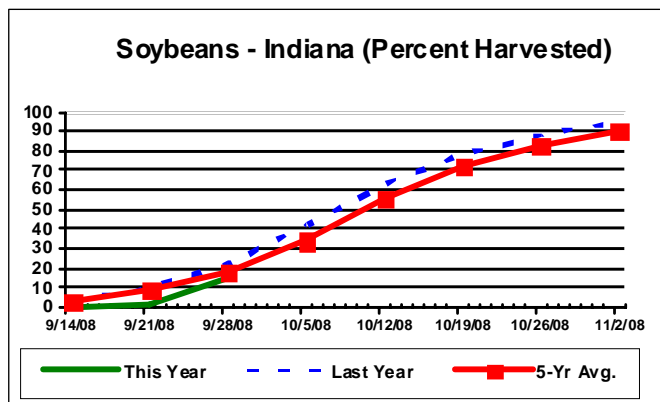
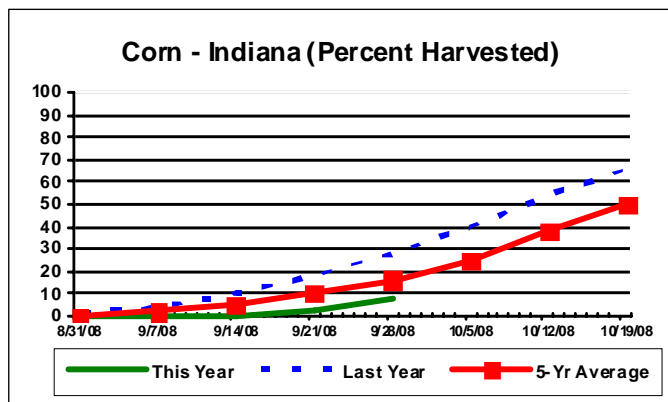
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	5	13	30	40	12
Soybean	7	12	33	37	11
Pasture	12	25	35	25	3

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	14	9	27
Short	36	30	34
Adequate	48	58	38
Surplus	2	3	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	12	10	37
Short	32	29	30
Adequate	54	58	33
Surplus	2	3	0
Days Suitable	6.9	5.8	5.3

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Other Agricultural Comments And News

Fall Herbicide Treatments in Wheat – Burndown or Early POST

For the past several years, we have emphasized the importance of a preplant/preemergence application of glyphosate in no-tillage wheat. Many winter annual weeds have emerged by early October, and they can be effectively controlled with relatively low rates of glyphosate prior to wheat emergence. This can be a more effective treatment for winter annuals, compared to the herbicides that can be applied broadcast to wheat in late fall or early spring. Producers who have applied glyphosate at the time of no-till wheat planting report that their fields have been relatively free of winter annuals in the spring. Preemergence application of glyphosate is also an effective and inexpensive tool to control winter annual grasses such as downy brome and cheat. A dense population of winter annuals may have already suppressed wheat growth by the time a spring treatment can be applied. In addition, our research over the past 8 years or so in various crops has led us to the general conclusion that herbicides are most consistently effective on winter annuals when applied in fall. The effectiveness of spring treatments can be extremely variable due to wide swings in weather conditions and the possibility of a late spring.

We have previously suggested that glyphosate applied at this time of the year could provide some of the better control of dandelion in wheat, but producers have indicated that this has not necessarily been the case. While we know that late September is somewhat early for optimum dandelion control, our recommendation was based on the known variability of spring herbicide treatments on dandelion. Late fall herbicide treatments to emerged wheat may be another option that is more effective for dandelion control. We conducted a study last fall and spring to compare various herbicide treatments on dandelion in wheat. This is only one year of data, and we'll be conducting the study again this year, but the results highlight some of the more effective treatments as well as the issues with dandelion control in spring.

Fall treatments were applied in mid-November, and spring treatments were applied in early April. Results shown here are from a May 13 evaluation. At that time, dandelion control from fall treatments ranged from 63 to 97%, while control from spring treatments ranged from 43 to 78%. Express (0.33 oz/A) was a common component of the most effective treatments in fall or

spring. Express plus dicamba (4 oz product/A) applied in the fall resulted in 97% dandelion control the following spring. This treatment also effectively controlled the winter annual weeds in the field. Several other treatments resulted in this level of control, but were more expensive. Examples – WideMatch + dicamba; WideMatch + Express; WideMatch + Harmony Extra. We did not apply the combination of Harmony Extra + dicamba in the fall, since Express is more effective on dandelion than Harmony Extra. Only one spring-applied treatment provided better than 70% control of dandelion - WideMatch + Express + 2,4-D.

We did not apply 2,4-D in the fall, due to its potential to injure wheat and reduce yield. We did apply a premix product that contained dicamba and 2,4-D in fall and spring, but this treatment was less effective than any of the others. We were not able to measure wheat yield at the study location, but we will be able to do so when we repeat the study this year. The results of this study indicate that one approach to dandelion and winter annual weed management may be to skip the preemergence glyphosate treatment, and instead apply herbicides in November to emerged wheat. This may not be the right approach in fields with a history of winter annual grass problems or other perennial weeds that are in the right stage for control by late September. We hope to get a better comparison for dandelion control between the preemergence glyphosate application and the late fall herbicide treatments in the second year of the study.

A final note on burndown - at this time of the year we start to receive questions about the safety and legality of 2,4-D applied prior to wheat planting. We do not know of any 2,4-D product labels that support this use of 2,4-D. There is some risk of stand reduction and injury to wheat from preplant applications of 2,4-D. We question why producers would want to use 2,4-D, when glyphosate can be applied for about the same cost to obtain a similar level of weed control (better on some species). One argument in favor of the use of 2,4-D would be to avoid overuse of glyphosate and slow the development of herbicide resistance. However, 2,4-D can be used with glyphosate in fall and spring herbicide treatments prior to corn and soybean planting, and would probably be best avoided prior to wheat planting.

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(Additional Article on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday September 28, 2008

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2008 thru				
	Temperature				Total		4 in	September 28, 2008				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil Temp	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
								Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	86	48	67	+6	0.00	0		23.25	+1.33	60	2659	-358
Francesville	83	49	67	+7	0.00	0		25.86	+3.67	68	2670	-99
Valparaiso_AP_I	84	50	67	+7	0.00	0		17.25	-6.56	55	2854	+98
Wanatah	85	43	65	+5	0.00	0	72	29.27	+6.27	64	2558	-73
Winamac	84	50	67	+7	0.00	0		28.47	+6.28	66	2704	-65
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	84	49	66	+6	0.00	0		25.54	+2.86	68	2691	-222
South_Bend	83	47	68	+8	0.00	0		26.50	+4.47	61	2870	+139
Young_America	85	47	66	+5	0.00	0		26.26	+4.78	60	2731	-134
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	84	50	66	+7	0.00	0	68	22.03	+0.48	65	2638	+31
Fort_Wayne	85	48	67	+6	0.00	0		19.99	+0.28	67	2979	+116
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	85	46	66	+3	0.00	0		34.96	+10.05	62	2767	-463
Perrysville	87	47	66	+4	0.03	1	72	28.79	+5.43	67	3005	+0
Spencer_Ag	85	47	67	+6	0.00	0		35.98	+10.98	69	3022	-8
Terre_Haute_AFB	86	47	67	+4	0.00	0		28.99	+5.46	54	3172	-33
W_Lafayette_6NW	87	46	67	+6	0.00	0	70	23.96	+2.05	70	2838	-12
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	85	51	69	+7	0.00	0		29.79	+7.84	67	3293	+116
Greenfield	84	51	67	+5	0.00	0		32.12	+8.10	73	2914	-144
Indianapolis_AP	85	54	70	+8	0.00	0		25.96	+4.01	64	3355	+178
Indianapolis_SE	84	46	66	+4	0.00	0		29.58	+7.15	58	2897	-274
Tipton_Ag	86	46	67	+7	0.00	0	71	23.11	+0.82	68	2760	-3
East Central(6)												
Farmland	86	45	65	+5	0.00	0	71	21.04	-0.65	62	2660	-38
New_Castle	84	46	66	+6	0.00	0		26.88	+3.92	66	2691	-74
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	90	51	70	+6	0.00	0		23.38	+1.23	54	3792	+112
Freelandville	84	53	68	+6	0.02	1		30.74	+7.66	59	3301	-9
Shoals_8S	85	43	65	+2	0.00	0		29.99	+5.09	57	3037	-174
Stendal	89	52	70	+7	0.00	0		29.39	+4.60	82	3545	+75
Vincennes_5NE	88	53	70	+7	0.02	1		25.40	+2.32	55	3447	+137
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	87	52	69	+7	0.00	0		26.24	+1.10	87	3467	+279
Oolitic	86	49	67	+6	0.02	1	69	27.78	+3.97	62	3020	-47
Tell_City	89	53	71	+6	0.00	0		22.50	-2.86	51	3699	+142
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	88	49	68	+8	0.00	0		22.57	-0.53	68	3156	+243
Greensburg	86	49	68	+7	0.00	0		28.87	+5.54	64	3149	+171
Scottsburg	86	51	68	+5	0.04	1		25.69	+1.95	80	3356	+58

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DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.

For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at

www.awis.com

Fall Cutting of Alfalfa

Every year many Ohio alfalfa producers take a fall cutting. Unfortunately, cutting alfalfa in late September to mid-October can carry serious risk to the health of the stand. Cutting during this period interrupts the process of storage of energy and proteins in alfalfa taproots. When alfalfa is cut during this period and if soil moisture is adequate, the plant will regrow and utilize those precious taproot energy and protein reserves that are needed for winter survival and spring regrowth next year.

Fall cutting may not result in real obvious stand loss, although that can occasionally happen. The more common occurrence is for fall-cut alfalfa stands to suffer some loss of vigor and yield next year that is not so obvious. One could only see such loss of vigor and yield next year if side-by-side comparisons were made within the same field, where strips of alfalfa are cut or not cut this fall. Often, the yield gained by fall cutting is lost in reduced yields the following year.

I realize that some producers are in need of additional hay supplies this year. So how can they minimize the potential for damage from cutting alfalfa stands this fall?

A LATE fall harvest is a safer alternative than cutting now in late September to mid-October. By LATE HARVEST, I mean as close as possible to a killing frost of alfalfa, which happens when air temperatures reach 25 F for several hours. This often does not happen until sometime in November in Ohio. BUT I recommend this late harvest option ONLY IF the soil is well-drained, the stand is healthy, a variety is planted that has excellent winterhardiness, and the soil has good fertility status.

I know that the weather is usually lousy in November for cutting forage, but waiting to get closer to the killing frost will prevent the late fall regrowth that “burns up”

energy reserves. Thus, cutting late when fall regrowth is less likely will reduce the risk of loss of vigor next spring.

A fall harvest after a killing frost is relatively safe IF the soil is well-drained and there is no history or risk of heaving on that particular soil. Without residue cover, the temperature at the soil surface will fluctuate more, so the potential for heaving injury is greater.

I am often asked whether leaving a large amount of fall growth can harm the alfalfa stand in the winter. The fear is that the alfalfa will “smother itself out”. I have let pure stands of alfalfa go into the winter with a lot of growth, even more than we see this fall, and I have never experienced a problem or seen the crop “smother out”.

Fall management of alfalfa is one of the few controllable factors that will potentially influence the health of your alfalfa stand next year. It could play a determining role in how much yield you get next year. If you don't need the forage, walk away from it this fall and let it insulate those alfalfa crowns this winter. The stand won't smother out because of excessive alfalfa growth.

If you do need the forage now and to get through this winter, then taking a cutting in early November or after a killing frost will reduce the risk of injury to the stand. But try to limit late cutting of alfalfa to well-drained soils with good pH and fertility status. Also leave a 6-inch stubble.

Finally, if you do cut alfalfa this fall, leave several different strips or areas within the same field where you do not cut. You might learn something interesting next spring about fall cutting on your farm.

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